

ENDEAVOR FOUNDATION

What need will your project address? Please discuss why this need is important, how it is present in Northwest Arkansas, and provide any relevant data with primary sources cited. (350 words or less)

The goal is to bridge a gap of detaining a juvenile by using alternatives to detention. One alternative is to expand the number of shelter beds available. Presently, the court utilizes the Youth Bridge Shelter located in Centerton, AR. However, due to funding we are only able to contract four beds. At any given time there are approximately 500 cases being supervised by the Benton County Probation Office. Four beds simply do not meet the needs. Additionally, there are certain kids that are not appropriate for placement in the current shelter due to certain charges or behavioral issues.

The Benton County Circuit Court (Juvenile Division) became a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) pilot site in 2012. Since 1992, JDAI, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has demonstrated that jurisdictions can safely reduce reliance on secure confinement, and generally strengthen their juvenile justice systems through a series of interrelated reform strategies. JDAI is now being replicated in almost 200 jurisdictions in 39 states and the District of Columbia. JDAI is based upon eight core interconnected strategies that address the primary reasons why youth are unnecessarily or inappropriately detained: Collaboration, Data Driven Decisions, Objective Admissions, Alternatives to Detention, Expedited Case Processing, Special Detention Cases, Reducing Racial Disparity and Conditions of Confinement. (JDAI Helpdesk)

In a report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation they stated, backed with an array of research, the case against America's youth prisons and correction training schools can be neatly summarized in five words: dangerous, ineffective, unnecessary, wasteful and inadequate. (No Place for Kids, October 4, 2011). Additionally other research has shown "When economists examined the juvenile court system in Chicago, for example, they found that incarcerating a young person not only reduces the chance of that individual earning a high school diploma (and thereby reduces their future individual success and economic value to society), it also increases the likelihood that person will commit more crimes." (Law Enforcement's Leadership Role in Juvenile Justice Reform July 2014).

How will you address the need, and what portion of the project will the grant cover (e.g. marketing, program development, etc.)? (250 words or less)

The project will be used as capital expenditures to modify a current pod of the Juvenile Detention Center into a shelter for court-involved youth.

Benton County is leading the way on detention reform in Arkansas. We have met and will continue to utilize the eight core strategies. Arkansas legislation (Act 1021) has been passed to give Probation staff the authority to apply alternatives to detention at the time of arrest. Act 1021 allows the juvenile to be placed on an electronic monitor or in a

shelter. Allowing the juvenile to be placed in a less restricted environment protects the juvenile and the community as well.

According to Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated, part of the purpose of the Juvenile Court is to protect society more effectively by substituting for retributive punishment, whenever possible, methods of offender rehabilitation and rehabilitative restitution, recognizing that the application of sanctions that are consistent with the seriousness of the offense is appropriate in all cases.

The Juvenile Court works with kids and families by offering services such as mental health and substance abuse counseling, intensive family support services, monitoring school attendance and success, pro-active activities, drug testing of juveniles and parents, parenting classes, mentoring, behavior modification classes, boot camps, etc. The juvenile is also responsible for giving back to the community in the form of restorative justice programs such as community service and victim/offender mediations. The goal is to aid the juvenile in becoming a law abiding citizen who will give back to our community.

How many people in our community/city/region could benefit from the kind of project you propose? How many of those people will this project actually serve? (200 words or less)

The shelter will house up to eight kids. Kids may only remain in the shelter up to ninety (90) days. While there is a need for some kids to stay the entire period other kids may only need this service for a shorter time. Depending on the actual length of stay the number could range from 32 kids at 3 months stay to 100 kids that are staying a shorter period.

While only a small number of kids may be served at the shelter, the total number will be exceeded when you include the other people that are affected by court involved youth. Many crimes have innocent victims involved which include physical assaults, property damages, loss of property, etc.

Additionally, family units are strengthened thus creating better circumstances for all the children in the family.

Education is highly emphasized. The goal is to have them come out with more resources to reintegrate into the community. Rehabilitation of the youth into law abiding citizens affects everyone in the community.

Outputs and outcomes

Provide at least one output and one outcome in the following format (see page 2)

Systemic change

What root causes(s) will be addressed and how will that lessen the problem in the future? (250 words or less)

Many of the children that enter the system have also been victims of child abuse including sexual, physical and mental. Many suffer addictions such as drug and alcohol abuse and/or mental issues. Others are involved with gangs and gang related activities. Many times parents do not have good parenting skills creating chaos in the family unit. Some kids do not respect authority in and out of the home and run amok in the community. Others are unable to function in school settings but can continue their education or obtain their GED in other settings. Many do not have good decision making skills, make bad choices and have no idea how their actions affect others.

Although there are services available in the community, many kids and families do not utilize the services available to them. Some kids simply abscond and are not available for services other than residential shelter.

The shelter is a non-secure residential facility staffed to provide time-limited housing for youth. Services will be offered in the shelter to address the issues mentioned above. Effective shelter alternatives establish a strong continuum of services to provide consistent and structured activities including counseling, mentoring, life skills, educational and recreational activities.

Large-scale impact

How will the target population (identified in “Reach” on page 5) be affected, preferably at the regional level? What coordination or collaboration is being done to accomplish this? (250 words or less)

The JDAI Governing Board is composed of members from all local law enforcements agencies, school administrators, non-profit staff including mental health agencies, judge, court staff, JDC staff and parent of juvenile with past involvement in the court system. The Board, Circuit Judge, County Judge, JDC Manager and JPO staff have all collaborated on this proposal. A sub-committee of the JDAI Governing Board will work with the County Judge and JDC Manager on oversight of the construction, and then continue to work with the JDC Manager on policies, procedures and follow through.

Social equity

What are the demographics of the people to be served? How many of them represent underserved populations? Please provide relevant data with primary sources cited or linked (250 words or less)

According to the Benton County Circuit Clerks Office, 1118 kids were involved in the juvenile justice system for delinquent or Family in Need of Services (FINS) cases in 2015. Arkansas Code of 1987 annotated defines a FINS case as any family whose juvenile evidences behavior that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Being habitually and without justification absent from school while subject to compulsory school attendance;

Being habitually disobedient to the reasonable and lawful commands of his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; or

Having absented himself or herself from the juvenile's home without sufficient cause, permission, or justification

Delinquent juvenile is defined as any juvenile ten years or older who has committed an act other than a traffic offense or game and fish violation that, if the act had been committed by an adult would subject the adult to prosecution for a felony, misdemeanor, or violation under the applicable criminal laws of the state.

A change is underway in our nation's approach to dealing with young people who get in trouble with the law. Although the United States still leads the industrialized world in the rate at which it locks up young people, the youth confinement rate in the US is rapidly declining. (Kids County Data Center – Project of Annie E. Casey Foundation)

Financial viability and sustainability

What resources are in place to implement the project? If applicable, what resources are/will be in place to sustain the project after the grant period? (250 words or less)

The Benton County Juvenile Detention Center is a 36 bed facility. However, changes through JDAI and finding alternatives to detention have decreased the bed use as follows:

DETENTION STATISTICS 2009- 2014

YEAR	# INTAKES	# DETENTION DAYS	AVERAGE STAY	AVG. DAILY INTAKE
2009	859	6557	7.63	2.35
2010	791	6923	8.75	2.17
2011	762	6340	8.32	2.09
2012	641	5296	8.26	1.75
2013	596	4056	6.81	1.63
2014	430	3196	7.43	1.18
*2014	396	2644	6.68	1.08

The *2014 stats are reflecting the difference of juveniles awaiting DYS, work release, adult charges and weekenders.

The funding will be used for a one time capital expenditure to convert a pod in the Benton County Juvenile Detention Center into a shelter. The costs incurred after that will be the operation of the shelter. Benton County provides funding for this operation under the Juvenile Detention umbrella. Current staff will be used to operate the proposed shelter.

The staff ratio to clients is 12.1 in waking hours and 16.1 in sleeping hours according to the Arkansas Juvenile Detention Standards. The Juvenile Detention Center employs 22

staff. They are as follows: (1) Juvenile Detention Center Manager, (1) Licensed Mental Health Professional, (1) assistant manager, (5) Senior Juvenile Detention Workers, (13) Juvenile Detention workers and (1) staff assistant.

Education is provided in house through the Bentonville School District. The district provides two certified teachers for classroom instruction and one certified coach for physical education only.